

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Prior to the entry of this Amendment, claims 8-11, 14-16 and 18-20 were pending in this application. Claims 8 and 15 have been amended. No claims have been added and no claims have been canceled herein. Therefore, claims 8-11, 14-16 and 18-20 remain pending in this application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application for at least the reasons presented below.

Claims 8-10, 14-16, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Publication No. US 2002/0120716 to Raghunathan et al. (hereinafter "Raghunathan") in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,930,764 to Melchione et al. (hereinafter "Melchione") and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,878,415 to Dale R. Olds (hereinafter "Olds").

Claims 11 and 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Olds in view of U. S. Publication No. US 2002/0104018 to Singhani et al. (hereinafter "Singhani").

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection, Raghunathan in view of Melchione and Olds

The Office Action has rejected claims 8-10, 14-16, 18 and 19 as being unpatentable over Raghunathan in view of Melchione and further in view of Olds. The Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action does not establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting these claims. Therefore, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In order to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the Office Action must establish: 1) some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or combine their teachings; 2) a reasonable expectation of success of such a modification or combination; and 3) a teaching or suggestion in the cited prior art of each claimed limitation. See MPEP §706.02(j). However, the references cited by the Office Action do not teach or suggest each claimed limitation. For example, none of the references, alone or in combination,

teach or suggest searching a directory based on a canonical form of an identifier included in each address entry or generating an additional view of address entries in a directory wherein the additional view provides access to only those address entries for which a canonical form of an identifier included in that entry matches identification information for any entity making a query.

Raghunathan relates to "a server framework that handles client requests to a database server by equitably distributing resources to the client requests." (para. 2) Under Raghunathan one or more client requests are made to a server for data, the requests are separated into smaller units, and each smaller unit is then serviced in the order it is received. (para 23) However, Raghunathan does not teach or suggest searching a directory based on a canonical form of an identifier included in each address entry or generating an additional view of address entries in a directory wherein the additional view provides access to only those address entries for which a canonical form of an identifier included in that entry matches identification information for any entity making a query.

Melchione is directed to "an electronic sales and service support system and method for assisting customer service and identifying sales targets, distributing sales leads, enhancing sales tools, and tracking performance of sales and sales personnel." (Col. 1, lines 27-31) Melchione "provid[es] a system and method for assembling a comprehensive database from diverse sources and retrieving information from the central database." (Col. 6, lines 17-20) However, Melchione does not teach or suggest searching a directory based on a canonical form of an identifier included in each address entry or generating an additional view of address entries in a directory wherein the additional view provides access to only those address entries for which a canonical form of an identifier included in that entry matches identification information for any entity making a query.

Olds "relates to uses of two features--inheritance and subtree filtering--to control access to objects in the hierarchical database." (Col. 1, lines 9-11) However, Olds does not teach or suggest searching a directory based on a canonical form of an identifier included in each address entry or generating an additional view of address entries in a directory wherein the

additional view provides access to only those address entries for which a canonical form of an identifier included in that entry matches identification information for any entity making a query.

Claim 8, upon which claims 9-11 and 14 depend, recites in part "searching the shared directory to identify address entries in the shared directory which include the hierarchal information based on a canonical form of an identifier included in each address entry in the shared directory." None of the references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest searching a directory based on a canonical form of an identifier included in each address entry. For at least these reasons, claims 8-11 and 14 should be allowed.

Claim 15, upon which claims 16 and 18-20 depend, recites in part "a shared directory in communication with the server which includes a plurality of address entries, each of the address entries including a canonical form of an identifier in a hidden field, the identifier being associated with at least one entity of the plurality of entities having access to the shared directory; and wherein the network server is further configured to search the shared directory and, based on the queries, generate a first and at least one additional view of the address entries, wherein access to the first view is restricted and the at least one additional view is a subset of the first view and wherein the at least one additional view provides access to only those address entries in the first view for which the identifier matches identification information for the one or more entities making the queries." None of the references, alone or in combination, teaches or generating an additional view of address entries in a directory wherein the additional view provides access to only those address entries for which a canonical form of an identifier included in that entry matches identification information for any entity making a query. For at least these reasons, claims 15, 16, and 18-20 should be allowed.

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection, Olds in view of Singhani

The Office Action has rejected claims 11 and 20 as being unpatentable over Olds in view of Singhani. The Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action does not

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establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness in rejecting these claims. Therefore, the Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

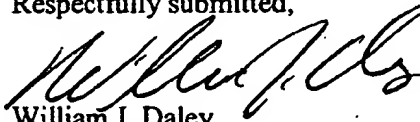
More specifically, claim 8, upon which claim 11 depends, is thought to be allowable for at least the reasons stated above. That is, the references fail to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, each claimed element. Therefore, claim 11 is thought to be allowable at least for the reason that it depends upon an allowable base claims. Similarly, claim 15, upon which claim 20 depends, is thought to be allowable for at least the reasons stated above. That is, the references fail to teach or suggest, alone or in combination, each claimed element. Therefore, claim 15 is thought to be allowable at least for the reason that it depends upon an allowable base claims. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully request that the reject be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 303-571-4000.

Respectfully submitted,


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